

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 98

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 79

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 98—Relative to Historic State Highway Route 395.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 8, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 98, Jeffries. Historic U.S. Highway 395.

This measure would request the Department of Transportation, upon application by a private entity or local government agency, to identify and designate specified sections of former U.S. Highway Route 395 as Historic U.S. Highway 395. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

WHEREAS, Former U.S. Highway 395 was a scenic stretch of highway that ran through historic areas of the County of Riverside and provided the only direct route from San Diego to the Lake Tahoe region and northern Nevada, before heading back into California on its way north to Oregon and all the way into Canada; and

WHEREAS, While former U.S. Highway 395 remains largely intact through the Counties of Inyo, Mono, Sierra, Lassen, and Modoc, only sections of former U.S. Highway 395 still exist in portions of the County of San Diego and the high desert area of the County of San Bernardino; and

WHEREAS, Most of the former highway route through southern California has been replaced by Interstate Highways 15 and 215 in the Counties of San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino; and

WHEREAS, Former U.S. Highway 395, which remains as Interstate Highways 15 and 215, was the major and most significant connection between San Diego, the Inland Empire, and the eastern Sierra Nevada region; and

WHEREAS, When former U.S. Highway 395 was known as the Cabrillo Parkway (and later the Cabrillo Freeway) in San Diego, now State Route 163, it was the first freeway to be constructed in San Diego and opened to traffic in 1948; and

WHEREAS, Part of the original routing of former U.S. Highway 395 in northern San Diego County includes the old Bonsall Bridge, one of the earliest automotive crossings over the San Luis Rey River, later becoming part of State Highway Route 76; and

WHEREAS, The portion of former U.S. Highway 395 between Temecula and Lake Elsinore was part of the Butterfield Overland Mail route, the first

major overland delivery service to southern California, established September 16, 1858; and

WHEREAS, After its realignment eastward, former U.S. Highway 395 became the first major expressway and freeway system in the southern portion of the County of Riverside in the early 1950s, servicing the Cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Menifee, Sun City, and Perris. Today this is State Highway Route 215; and

WHEREAS, The portion of former U.S. Highway 395 between the Cities of San Bernardino and Hesperia, near modern State Highway Route 395, traverses the Cajon Pass with old State Highway Route 66 and old State Highway Route 91, most famously used by the Mormons in 1851 in their crossing into the valley where they subsequently founded the modern Cities of San Bernardino and Riverside; and

WHEREAS, The heritage in the regions through which former U.S. Highway 395 passed was greatly diminished when the former highway was replaced by suburban streets and Interstate Highways 15 and 215; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing existing highway and road segments that formerly comprised U.S. Highway 395 would help preserve the history of the regions through which that highway passed and would also increase tourism and business in those regions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the original U.S. Highway 395 for its historical significance and importance in the development of California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested, upon application by a private entity or by an appropriate local government agency or agencies, to identify any section of former U.S. Highway 395 that is still a publicly maintained highway and that is of interest to the applicant, and to designate that section of highway as “Historic U.S. Highway 395”; and be it further

Resolved, That the designation of Historic U.S. Highway 395 pursuant to this resolution shall have no impact upon the future planning or development of adjacent private or public properties; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of erecting the appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.